

# **NEWTON YOUTH COMMISSION Meeting**

**JUNE 20, 2007 MINUTES**

**Location: Newton City Hall Cafeteria**

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Present: Anthony Bibbo, Joe DeVito (Chair), Donna Gordon, Matt Green, Peter Harrington, Stephanie Pelkowsky, Stephen Ross, Terance Sack, Robert Staulo

Students: Brandon Harris, Kira Mascho

Regrets: Richard Dyer, Kipaya Kapiga, Joanne Kazarian, Lisa Langone, Sarah Laski, Officer Jim O'Doughlin, Katie Sanders

Staff: Beverly Droz, Director, Human and Volunteer Services

Guests: Sharon O. Stout (Human Rights Commission member), Greg Kelley (NNHS student), Kirsten Tuohy (NNHS teacher)

NOTE: Tonight was the Youth Commission's **5th annual Youth Service Award Dinner** at 6pm. The annual Youth Service Award for 2007 was given to David Sellers, Sr. in recognition of his distinguished career on behalf of the youth in Newton and as Executive Director of the John M. Barry Boys & Girls Club. (Event Program will be attached to minutes in office file.) Richard Dyer was able to attend the dinner but not stay for the meeting; guests came for the meeting after the dinner. Joe presented student advisory members with Certificates of Appreciation.

The meeting was called to order at 7:20pm.  
Introductions were made and guests were welcomed.

**Motion to approve minutes of May 2, 2007 was passed.**

## **Nominations**

Brandon, Sara and Kipaya are seniors and will be moving on. Bev reminded the group that several students have expressed interest and attended past meetings, including:

- Stephanie Fong from NSHS who has attended various meetings since October 2006
- Devin Perry who attended in January and is in school in FL but is returning this summer
- Greg Kelley from NNHS who has attended meetings since March

Adults are also interested in joining including Kirsten Tuohy, a NNHS teacher, and Sharon O. Stout, a fundraiser and community activist.

## **Community effort to raise awareness for parents and teens**

Donna reported on an initial June 8 meeting with PTO leaders and some school and community representatives held at Teen Reach. They did a brainstorming session on how to strengthen community connections in order to strengthen resources for our kids. Many of the issues they were looking at are connected with both the Youth Commission and the Youth Interagency.

Bev said she has signed up for their list-serve and will be attending the July 18 meeting. She received an email from Alison Malkin, NNHS counselor, stating they are planning a month long initiative via different community agencies and organizations will host an event of a discussion, or something around raising awareness of the issues affecting our kids and teens.

They are interested in connecting with our %Autumn Invasion+event. Joe said that would be fine.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Bev handed out a Treasurer's Report noting we are at the end of Fiscal Year 2007. Total program spending included:

Autumn Invasion       \$ 470.77

FCD Seminars         \$1,413.77

Award Dinner         \$ 484.20

Program supplies     \$ 114.18

Total                   \$2,482.92 leaving \$17.08 returning to the City's operating budget.

The Youth Commission is again funded for \$2,500 for FY2008.

Bev reported that thanks to a recent contribution from Tony Bibbo, the revolving account now has a balance of \$468.12.

**Motion to approve the Treasurer's report was passed.**

**Programs:**

We'll look at what seminars and programs we'll pursue in the 2007-2008 year when we re-group in September. Program ideas include:

- Sponsoring the FCD seminars in the high schools again
- Sponsoring a program on bullying and prevention
- Finalizing plans for an Internet Safety program
- Planning our fundraising efforts
- The annual Autumn Invasion

**Autumn Invasion:**

Brandon and Kira said they will help with the initial planning of Autumn Invasion over the summer and probably some of the other 2006-07 students will do so, as well. Bev will email some meeting dates out to everyone. We'll probably hold the first committee meeting toward the end of July.

There was discussion of the date and October 21 from noon to 4pm is the first choice. Terry had us look at the Patriots' schedule but Oct. 21 is good. There was discussion about getting a large TV screen to have at the event.

**Youth Foundation Subcommittee:**

Joe De Vito is setting a meeting with Alderman Vicki Danberg.

Tony went to a meeting with Vicki and Peter Karroff and others at which they were discussing foundations and pulling together professionals and community representatives to consider a Newton Foundation.

**Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.**

**The next meeting will be Wednesday, SEPTEMBER 5**